

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT Increased East German Production of Laboratory Instruments

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1. Production of laboratory instruments by the Thuringian glass industry has reportedly increased unexpectedly, and many firms are expanding in order to meet increasing demands. It is believed that the unexpected increase in demand is connected with the establishment of new testing laboratories by the German Office for Testing Material and Products (Deutsches Amt fuer Material- und Warenpruefung) (DAMW). East German industrial plants are building more and more new laboratories, presumably at the order of the Russians. It is not known where these new laboratories are located.
2. A move is afoot in East Germany to standardize not only the specifications and production of laboratory instruments but also testing and research procedure. Such standardization would be advantageous since the results of standardized tests could be compared directly. The Technical Standards Committee for Laboratory Instruments of the German Standards Committee (DINA) is going to follow this line of thought and create norms for testing and research.
3. East German centralized planning can reportedly hinder laboratory research work. Centralized planning is especially disadvantageous for large-scale research projects, the scope of which cannot be determined during the initial stages, since requests for funds and material must be made early in order to be considered in the plans for the coming year. If it turns out that funds and material are in short supply, it is often impossible to receive extra-plan amounts, and in such cases projects have to be shelved until the next plan year.

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